

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 10-24 are currently pending in the application. In the Office Action dated April 28, 2006, claims 17-23 were objected to based on alleged informalities. Claims 11-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. Claims 10, 11, 13-16 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,044,935 ("Mery et al."). Claims 10-12 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,064,974 ("Filderman"). Claims 10-18, 20, 21, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,448,831 ("Newstead"). Lastly, claims 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being allegedly obvious over Newstead.

Applicants have carefully considered the April 28, 2006 Office Action and respectfully traverse the claim objections and rejections based on the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim Objections

Applicants have amended claims 17 and 18 to address the alleged informalities identified in those claims. The amendments are formal in nature, are not believed to relate to patentability, and are not intended to surrender any subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants respectfully submit that the language of claim 11 is clear in the context of the second actuating device, and its function. To advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 11 without prejudice to remove the language "wherein the second actuating device is acting on both sides." Applicants believe that this amendment should resolve any misunderstanding that may exist.

With regard to claims 13-16, the claims do not recite a caliper that is floating and fixed. Claim 13, for example, recites a floating-caliper brake and a second actuating device fixed at the caliper. To advance prosecution, claims 14 and 16 have been amended to remove the language "of the floating caliper", because the brake holder is a separate component from the floating caliper. Applicants believe that these amendments should resolve any misunderstanding that may exist.

Claims 18-20 and 22 have been amended where appropriate to address the alleged informalities related to antecedent basis. Reference to "first" and "second" pistons in claims 19 and 22 have been removed. Applicants respectfully submit that the phrase "the two pistons" in

claim 21 has proper antecedent basis in claim 17 as originally filed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102, § 103

Before addressing the art-based rejections, Applicants refer to the background section and summary of the invention set forth in the application. Many known disc brake devices feature both a fixed-caliper and a floating-caliper component embossed in each other. This type of construction is unnecessarily complicated and, what is more, requires three actuating devices in order to press the individual brake pads accordingly against the associated brake discs.

In contrast to known disk brakes, Applicants have proposed the use of one single brake caliper with a displaceable second actuating device to reduce the effort in construction for the disc brake. Moreover, Applicants have proposed a second actuating device acting on both sides i.e. on two brake pads arranged between two friction rings.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite a "second actuating device comprising a cylinder axially displaceable against one of said friction rings and a piston axially aligned with the cylinder and axially displaceable against the other of said friction rings." Support for the amendment is provided in sections of the substitute specification, including but not limited to page 10, line 18 to page 11, line 5. No new matter has been added. None of the cited references teach or suggest a second actuating device as recited in amended claim 10. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 10 is allowable over the cited references.

Claims 11-16 and 24 are dependent on claim 10 and incorporate all of the features recited in claim 10. Therefore, claims 11-16 and 24 are believed to be allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons that claim 10 is allowable. The amended language of claim 10 prompted the need for an amendment to claim 11 so as to avoid duplicative claim language. Claim 11 now recites that "the second actuating device acts on both brake pads in a substantially simultaneous manner." Support for this amendment is provided in sections of the substitute specification, including but not limited to page 10, line 28 to page 11, line 5. No new matter has been added.

Claim 17 was rewritten in independent form to recite a disk brake device similar to claim 10, but having a second actuating device with "two pistons axially aligned with one another wherein one of said pistons is axially displaceable against one of said friction rings and the other of said pistons is axially displaceable against the other of said friction rings." Support for this amendment is provided in sections of the substitute specification, including but not limited to page 14, lines 17-22. No new matter has been added. None of the cited references teach or

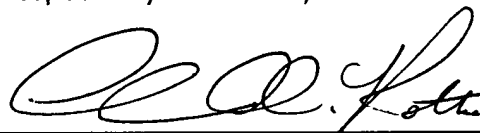
suggest a second actuating device as recited in amended claim 17. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 10 is allowable over the cited references.

Claims 18-23 are dependent on claim 17 and incorporate all of the features recited in claim 17. Therefore, claims 18-23 are believed to be allowable over the cited references for at least the same reason that claim 17 is allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections and rejections set forth in the April 28, 2006 Office Action have been traversed, and the application is in form for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any issues remain regarding the allowability of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (610) 993-4213.

Respectfully submitted,



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